WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of eliciting a secretory IgA-mediated immune response in a subject comprising the step of administering to at least one mucosal surface of the subject a non-toxic Pseudomonas exotoxin A-like ("PE-like") chimeric immunogen comprising: (1) a cell recognition domain of between 10 and 1500 amino acids that binds to a cell surface receptor on the mucosal surface; (2) a translocation domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially identical to a sequence of PE domain II sufficient to effect translocation to a cell cytosol; (3) a foreign epitope domain comprising an amino acid sequence of between 5 and 1500 amino acids that encodes a foreign epitope; and (4) an amino acid sequence encoding an endoplasmic reticulum ("ER") retention domain that comprises an ER retention sequence.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the mucosal surface is selected from mouth, nose, lung, gut, vagina, colon or rectum.

3. The method of claim 1 comprising administering a booster dose of the chimeric immunogen to a different mucosal surface.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering to the subject a booster dose of the chimeric immunogen parenterally.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering to the subject a booster dose of the chimeric immunogen to a mucosal surface.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering to the subject a booster dose of the chimeric immunogen to a mucosal surface at least one year after an initial dose.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the foreign epitope comprises a V3 loop apex of HIV-1.

8. A composition comprising secretory IgA antibodies that specifically recognize an epitope of HIV-1.

9. The composition of claim 8 wherein the foreign epitope comprises a V3 loop apex of HIV-1.

10. The composition of claim 8 wherein the foreign epitope is an epitope of herpes, vaccinia, cytomegalovirus, yersinia or vibrio.

11. The composition of claim 8 produced by administering to at least one mucosal surface of a subject a non-toxic Pseudomonas exotoxin A-like ("PE-like") chimeric immunogen comprising: (1) a cell recognition domain of between 10 and 1500 amino acids that binds to a cell surface receptor on the mucosal surface; (2) a translocation domain comprising an amino acid sequence substantially identical to a sequence of PE domain II sufficient to effect translocation to a cell cytosol; (3) a foreign epitope domain comprising an amino acid sequence of between 5 and 1500 amino acids that encodes a an epitope of HIV-1; and (4) an amino acid sequence encoding an endoplasmic reticulum ("ER") retention domain that comprises an ER retention sequence.